Midweek Lenten Worship Services
10 am
Wednesdays in Lent via Bethel and Emmanuel Facebook Livestreams

A spirit-led virtual gathering of the people of Bethel and Emmanuel Lutheran Churches

ANGER
HOPE JOY PEACE
GRACE

CROSS WORDS

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

THE GREAT LITANY

P O Lord,
C Have mercy.

P O Christ,
C Have mercy.

P O Lord,
C Have mercy. Amen

P God the Father, in heaven,
C have mercy.

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C Have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit.
C Have mercy.

P Be gracious to us.
C Spare us, good Lord.

P Be gracious to us.
C Help us, good Lord.

P From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and evil death; from war, bloodshed, and violence; from corrupt and unjust government; from sedition and treason; from epidemic, drought, and famine; from fire and flood, earthquake, lightning and storm, and from everlasting death;

C Good Lord, deliver us.

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and suffering; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter;

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation, in all time of our prosperity, in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,

C Help us, good Lord.

P Though unworthy we implore You

C To hear us, O Lord.

P To rule and govern Your holy whole church, to guide all servants of Your Church in the love of your Word and in holy living, to put an end to all schisms and causes of offense, to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived, to bless the Church's life-giving message that Jesus is Lord, to bring comfort to the sorrowing and hope to those living in fear, to beat down Satan under our feet, to send faithful laborers into Your harvest, and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit,

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To raise those that fall and to strengthen those that stand, and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed,

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To give to all peoples and nations justice and peace, to preserve our land from discord and strife, to give our country Your protection in every time of need, to direct and defend our president and all in authority, to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people, to keep in safety the members of our armed forces and to give wisdom to those in command, to behold and help all who are in danger or need or tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; to preserve

and provide for all women in childbirth; to watch over children and to guide the young; to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends, to bring reconciliation to families in discord, to provide for the unemployed and all in need, to be merciful to all who are imprisoned, to support, comfort, and guide all orphans, widowers, and widows; and to have mercy on all your people,

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers;

C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **We implore You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **Have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **Have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **Grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

C **Hear us.**

P O Lord,

C **Have mercy.**

P O Christ,

C **Have mercy.**

P O Lord,

C **Have mercy. Amen**

Scripture Readings

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

BENEDICTION

P May the God of grace shine blessing into your life in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Cross Words

- Anger -

February 24, 2021

Pastor Scott Ehle, Bethel Lutheran Church

Scripture Readings

Psalm 10

[1]Why, O LORD, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?
[2]In arrogance the wicked persecute the poor —
let them be caught in the schemes they have devised.
[3]For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart,
those greedy for gain curse and renounce the LORD.
[4]In the pride of their countenance the wicked say, "God will not seek it out";
all their thoughts are, "There is no God."
[5]Their ways prosper at all times;
your judgments are on high, out of their sight;
as for their foes, they scoff at them.
[6]They think in their heart, "We shall not be moved;
throughout all generations we shall not meet adversity."
[7]Their mouths are filled with cursing and deceit and oppression;
under their tongues are mischief and iniquity.
[8]They sit in ambush in the villages;
in hiding places they murder the innocent.
Their eyes stealthily watch for the helpless;
[9]they lurk in secret like a lion in its covert;
they lurk that they may seize the poor;
they seize the poor and drag them off in their net.
[10]They stoop, they crouch,
and the helpless fall by their might.
[11]They think in their heart, "God has forgotten,
he has hidden his face, he will never see it."

[12]Rise up, O LORD; O God, lift up your hand;
do not forget the oppressed.
[13]Why do the wicked renounce God,
and say in their hearts, "You will not call us to account"?
[14]But you do see! Indeed you note trouble and grief,
that you may take it into your hands;
the helpless commit themselves to you;
you have been the helper of the orphan.
[15]Break the arm of the wicked and evildoers;
seek out their wickedness until you find none.
[16]The LORD is king forever and ever;
the nations shall perish from his land.
[17]O LORD, you will hear the desire of the meek;
you will strengthen their heart, you will incline your ear
[18]to do justice for the orphan and the oppressed,
so that those from earth may strike terror no more.

Ephesians 4:1-16

[1]I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, [2]with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, [3]making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [4]There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, [5]one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6]one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

[7]But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.
[8]Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." [9](When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? [10]He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) [11]The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [12]to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13]until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the

full stature of Christ. [14]We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. [15]But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16]from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Matthew 21:12-17

[12]Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. [13]He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

[14]The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. [15]But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became angry [16]and said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself'?"

[17]He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, you give us our every emotion, this day we ask you to give us a spirit of discernment of how to use anger to build the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Show us how to be angry without sinning, help us see that through Christ, you toss every barrier that humankind puts before you, and that even angry, you are a God of love. Amen

Cross Words

- Hope -

March 3, 2021

Pastor Mark Laatsch, Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. [2]When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. [3]For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. [4]Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. [5]Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; [6]I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— [7]everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Matthew 5:1-12

[1]When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2]Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:
[3]"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[4]"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
[5]"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
[6]"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
[7]"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

[8]"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
[9]"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
[10]"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
[11]"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account [12]Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Prayer of the Day

O God, you know that we often struggle to withstand the dangerous words which often pierce us. Strengthen us in body and spirit with your eternal Word, so that we may be able to overcome the weakness that our sin has brought upon us; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen

Cross Words

- Joy -

March 10, 2021

Reverend Ken Michaelis

Scripture Readings

John 16:16-24

16 A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will
see me. 17 Then some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by
saying to us, 'A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while,
and you will see me'; and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" 18 They said, "What
does he mean by this 'a little while'? We do not know what he is talking about."
19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing
among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'A little while, and you will no longer
see me, and again a little while, and you will see me'? 20 Very truly, I tell you, you
will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain
will turn into joy. 21 When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has
come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of
the joy of having brought a human being into the world. 22 So you have pain now;
but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy
from you. 23 On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask
anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have not
asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be
complete.

Prayer of the Day

Our thanks and praise to you O Lord, for the gifts given to us through your death and resurrection. In your dying you take away our sin; in your rising you give us new life. What joy to know what you have done for us. Help us to be worthy of these gifts by living lives of service in this world which needs to know hope and joy. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Cross Words

- Peace -

March 17, 2021

Reverend Nick Johannes

Scripture Readings

John 14:25ff.

I have said these things to you while I am still with you., But the advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Prayer of the Day

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness of peace and hope that we can never comprehend. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear, and despair. Help us have an inner peace and the courage to awaken to a greater truth, a greater humility, and a greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing for our suffering world. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen

Cross Words

- Grace -

March 24, 2021

Reverend Doug Schoen

Scripture Readings

Romans 3:21-25a

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, [22] the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, [23] since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, [25] whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.

Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us [5] even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— [6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— [9] not the result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Prayer of the Day

Thank you, gracious Father, that by grace through faith in Christ, I have been set free from the law of sin and death and have been given a new life in him. Grant me faith to trust daily in the promise that your grace is sufficient for all my needs. By your grace, keep me walking in spirit and truth, and keep me living in holiness and righteousness all my days, so that I may be increasingly conformed into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. May the world be crucified to me and I to the world through the cross of Jesus Christ, my Savior, and may I live and move and have my being in Him, until I am nothing and He is everything in my life. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen